

I am writing in response to the FAA's proposal to make the Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) surrounding the Washington D.C. area permanent (Docket Number 17005). I want to comment on why I believe the Washington ADIZ must NOT be made permanent.

I am a relatively new pilot, having received my private pilot's license in 2002, and I fly about 50 hours a year. I am a member of a local flying club which is based in Sanford, N.C. I am not a wealthy person, so the thousands of dollars and time invested in getting my pilot's license was a big deal to me. I have had to make several trips to the Washington D.C. area since the ADIZ was established. Instead of flying to DC myself, and getting some return on my investment, I either used a car or flew commercially rather than attempt flying into the ADIZ. The ADIZ is too complicated and potentially dangerous, so I avoid it all together.

The Washington ADIZ was supposed to be a temporary action when it was established in February 2003. It's a totally unworkable solution to a problem that I feel doesn't exist. It does not stop a terrorist from flying into the area, it is only an obstacle for us law abiding pilots. The general aviation aircraft I fly are too small, weighing about as much as a small economy car, to be an effective weapon for a terrorist. So the potential threat does not warrant making the ADIZ restrictions permanent. It also sets a bad precedent that may lead to similar restrictions in other areas of the country. The FAA should be trying to plan a graceful elimination of the Washington D.C. ADIZ instead of making it permanent.

Regards,  
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